



BETTY THOMAS
MAYOR

Village of Pleasant Hill

8336 PEARL STREET
P.O. BOX 125
PLEASANT HILL, LOUISIANA 71065
TELEPHONE: 318/796-3680
FAX 318/796-3366

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ALDERMEN
EDWARD G. ARNOLD
WALTER C. LEE
ELVERA R. SHANNON

CHIEF OF POLICE
TOMMY RAY WILLIAMS

May 30, 2007

Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

05-337

JUN 13 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

I am writing regarding the FCC's consideration of a cap on the use of Universal Service Funds (USF) for wireless service. On behalf of the citizens of the city of Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge, I am writing to let you know of my opposition to this unfair and arbitrary proposal. This approach would result in a terrible disservice to rural consumers in our area, who want and need expanded and improved wireless services in their areas for public safety, economics development, and business and personal needs that are equally important to them as they are to urban consumers.

When Congress initially established the Fund, it envisioned expanding those benefits to rural consumers, and the Fund is working as it was intended. Singling out wireless technology is clearly anti-competitive, and defeats public choice, which is trending in the direction of more wireless technology. Rural Americans deserve the same access to telecommunications services as are available in the rest of the country, which is the very purpose of the USF.

Rural consumers are clearly demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. Without the continued needed support for the expansion and upgrading of the rural wireless networks, consumers will not receive these benefits where they do not already exist. Universal service support is essential if rural consumers are to be provided service and rates comparable to those available in urban areas. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without USF support provided to wireless Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC's) who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.

Wireless technology plays an ever-increasing role in economic growth and is a critical instrument in emergency situations. If the recommended cap is implemented, many

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

An Equal Opportunity Employer



BETTY THOMAS
MAYOR

Village of Pleasant Hill

8336 PEARL STREET
P.O. BOX 125
PLEASANT HILL, LOUISIANA 71065
TELEPHONE: 318/796-3680
FAX 318/796-3366

ALDERMEN

EDWARD G. ARNOLD
WALTER C. LEE
ELVERA R. SHANNON

CHIEF OF POLICE

TOMMY RAY WILLIAMS

communities may never realize these benefits. The FCC should not restrict certain individuals' access to these essential tools simply because of their geographic locations, especially when they have contributed to the USF pool for years along with all other consumers.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. I request that you find competitively neutral proposals to slow fund growth, ensure accountability as to how these funds are used, and promote the continued expansion and improvement of these much-needed services in rural areas by targeting funds to high cost areas rather than by targeting reforms to wireless providers. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service

Sincerely,

Betty S. Thomas
Mayor
Village of Pleasant Hill
8336 Pearl Street
Pleasant Hill, LA 71065

cc:

Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner